

THE KOREAN REPOSITORY.

MAY, 1892.

KOREA:- A PLEA AND A GROWL.

I THINK most visitors to Corea have noted the pessimistic views generally expressed on every possible occasion by foreigners here respecting this country, its people and institutions.

On my first visit to Corea, I particularly remarked this, and was surprised that persons holding such views would willingly consent to remain, or to ever return, after they had had the opportunity of going away, in peace, but "still the wonder grew" when I found that some of the severest, most dilligent and most persistent critics, instead of welcoming their departure from such a country, as a happy release, were actually endeavoring to prolong their stay and evidently left it, curious as it seems, with some regret.

It may be, that much which is commonly said has more or less foundation or is at least what under all the circumstances would naturally be expected, but I really think that in some matters the criticisms are unjust and that the disposition to minimize everything Corean is the outcome more of habit, imitation and fashion than of fair, candid, critical and intelligent observation and thought.

All who come to Corea necessarily go through Japan or China and perhaps unconsciously contrast the cities through

which they pass with Chemulpo. Surprised as they must be when reaching Japan, pleased and delighted with that wonderfully artistic and remarkable country and people, finding as they do splendid hotels, well equipped foreign houses, gas, electric lights, water works and all the modern appliances which Western civilization deems necessary for the enjoyment of life, it is but natural that there should be a feeling of disappointment when they reach Chemulpo. The same may be said of the contrast with Shanghai.

One who has travelled in the luxurious railway train from Yokohama to Tokio, can not fail to contrast that mode of locomotion with the slow chair or diminutive and sorry pony by which the tedious trip from Chemulpo to Seoul is made.

It must however be remembered that as early as 1859 Yokohama was a place of considerable importance with a large foreign population and trade but that the short line of railroad (only 18 miles) between it and the capital was not in operation until 1872 and not completed until 1880 and that Shanghai has been opened to foreign trade for nearly fifty years, while on the other hand the first treaty between Western nations and Corea was formally ratified only nine years ago and the next, a year later:—that although the agreement for the General Foreign Settlement at Chemulpo is dated in 1884, the foreigners did not fully organize the Municipal Council until December 1888 and that even the deeds for the property held by foreigners were only issued in 1888.

Thirty or thirty-five years from now, if for years in the mean time three regular lines of steamers ply between Chemulpo and America, and the magnificent steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., the Messageries Maritimes, and the North German Lloyd, between Europe and that port, and a double line of railroad is constructed to Seoul, the comparison of the Yokohama of today with the

Chemulpo of that time can be made more justly and fairly.

Agriculturally I think Corea is rich and that the country is capable, not only of furnishing all the products necessary for its people but of exporting a large surplus.

The Japanese gardeners are perhaps the best in the world; the farmers pay the greatest and most industrious and intelligent attention to the cultivation of their crops and I think are in this unsurpassed. The labour they bestow on and the intelligent care they exercise with respect to fertilizers will be noted by even the most casual observer, but still the Koreans compete with them and export to their country large quantities of cereals although under the disadvantage of bad roads and inefficient and expensive methods of transportation to the open ports and excessive freights from there to Japan.

It is certain that the Korean farmer uses much less manure and bestows less labour and care in the culture and gathering of his crops than the Japanese.

In Corea rice is successfully grown in much higher latitudes than is supposed possible in other countries and the quality of the grain is said to be very good—I do not pretend to be an expert on this question but I know that in Japan, Korean rice is greatly preferred to Chinese or Indian rice.

I heard this frequently from all classes of Japanese during the so-called rice famine of 1890 when large quantities of rice were imported.

As bearing on the above I quote from the trade reports of the Royal Korean Customs, commencing shortly after the ports were opened. We find that the export of beans has been as follows:

EXPORT OF BEANS.

	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Piculs—	28,013	46,967	304,295	443,546	447,342	659,562

The export of rice has been as follows:

EXPORT OF RICE.

	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Piculs—	9,832	8,454	67,589	16,065	34,527	874,665	928,010.

It also appears from the report of 1891, that of the entire value of shipments abroad (\$3,366,344), rice, grain, and beans form about 82% and that almost all this was shipped to Japan, showing that the farmers of Corea, even while they labor under the disadvantage we have mentioned and many others, are successfully competing with those of Japan; this could not be done if the soil of Corea were not naturally fertile and productive.

My personal experience has been confirmatory of these hard and incontrovertable statistics. Last year I was able to devote a comparatively small tract of land to a kitchen-garden, and used it rather experimentally than otherwise; the seeds were as a general rule imported from America.

I had expected some deterioration in the vegetables raised but in this was most agreeably surprised. It is well known that in the East many of the foreign agricultural products rapidly deteriorate—for example I was told by a well known missionary doctor, a long resident of Japan, who had given much and intelligent attention to gardening, that Indian corn deteriorated so remarkably in Japan, that the finest white variety that he could import would become yellow and worthless by the third crop. But here my experience was exactly the reverse.

I planted several species of Indian corn and found in every instance that the grains and ears were larger and a remarkable improvement upon the seed I had used.

Indeed there was no deterioration in any of the crops. The peas, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, salsify, okera, lettuce, radishes,

celery, strawberries etc. grew as well, some of them better, than in the most fertile spots of Kentucky and California.

It will be noted that there has been a remarkable increase in the exports; for example that of rice in 1886 was only 8,454 piculs, while in 1891 it was 928,010 piculs.

The isolation of Corea has been from the earliest time, until recently, so complete that the people have not learned and do not appreciate the advantages of foreign trade.

The natural instinct to barter, to sell or exchange commodities with other nations has been smothered and extinguished by lack of opportunity. As there was no outlet, no way of disposing of a surplus, there was no incentive to produce more than was absolutely necessary to meet temporary (and in view of the imperfect and expensive methods of transportation, we may add local) wants. Rice and still less beans, wheat, or barley will profitably bear transportation on the backs of ponies, bulls, or coolies but a short distance from the place of production. In addition to this there still remains some prejudice, tinged not a little by religious and patriotic ideas, against the sending of food-stuffs out of the country.

But I think these deterrents to foreign trade will soon be done away with. The gain and profits which can be secured by seeking foreign markets, will naturally teach the Koreans to do all they can to increase their production and entirely remove any patriotic or religious scruples they may have entertained in the premises. Roads will be improved, better modes of transportation secured and we may reasonably expect an increase of the exports in the future, as great as in the past few years.

There is I think much undeveloped wealth in the grazing lands. On every side we see splendid pastures which seem to be entirely unused. The grasses of this vicinity are undoubtedly excellent and I am told that such is the case in most parts of the country.

The oxen are as a general rule strong, fine and very large. I do not think much attention has been given to breeding but nevertheless they bear a striking resemblance to the famous English Durhams and I have seen many which could compete for prizes at the American or English Agricultural Fairs. With so much pasture land now unemployed, I can see no reason why cattle-raising should not become a large and profitable industry.

2. I believe Corea rich also in mines. The Customs reports show that in some years there has been more than \$1,300,000 worth of Corean gold exported through the Custom house and it is certain, and indeed intimated in the report, that all the gold exported is not declared, I think perhaps not more than one half. I have not examined any of the mines but am informed that the means employed in working are very crude and inefficient. In the quartz mines no blasting powder is used, but the ore is extracted by building a fire against the face of the hard quartz, and when it is sufficiently heated throwing water upon it and thus cracking the surface, and the ore, so expensively, unscientifically and laboriously obtained, is crushed between two stones, the lower one flat and the upper rounded so as to rock over the material to be pulverised. No pumps are used to free the mines from water and no quicksilver, amalgamating plates, or chemicals, are employed in the extraction of the precious metals, and only such of the gold as is free and can be gathered in hand-washing pans is saved.

I do not think there is a gold mine in America that could be profitably developed and worked by such methods.

Mr. C. W. Campbell, of H. B. M's. Consular Service, in 1889 made a journey in Eastern Corea, passing through some of the mining regions and has written a very interesting and intelligent account in a consular report of what he saw, as well

as delivered an address before the Royal Geographical Society in London, to the latter of which my attention has been called by the editor of the *Repository*.

I quote from Mr. Campbell's address the following:

"Gold is popularly supposed to exist everywhere in the peninsula. Few attempts are made to work quartz veins, but 'placer' mining is carried on extensively. In the course of my wanderings I visited or passed by at least half-a-dozen washings, none of which were very prolific, owing, I believe, to the utter want of pumping appliances. The water has only to overcome the bailing capacity of a couple of pails and the claim' is deserted, the deeper and presumably richer deposits being left untouched. Nowhere did I come across an instance of the 'bedrock' being reached."

In his Consular Report Mr. Campbell says that on this one subject of mines, "the Corean is always voluble. His country is impregnated with the precious dust, he says; it exists everywhere and I am inclined to think, from my personal experience that this statement is one of the truest he makes."

I regret that lack of space prevents making more extracts from this very valuable report. Mr. Campbell was not seeking mines in his hasty journey through the country but he saw and recorded enough, to show that at least some of the placer mines must be rich. For example he says that some of the miners pursue in the winter season their avocation: "by laboriously breaking the ice-bound earth with picks and melting it in a caldron."

This to a California miner, who with modern hydraulic appliances for moving the dirt and with quicksilver flumes for catching the gold, works earth containing but a few cents of gold dust to the cubic yard, would conjure up visions of untold wealth.

Mr. Campbell's address before the society gave rise to dis-

cussions in the meeting of that august body, in which some people who had perhaps unfortunately for themselves and the country visited Korea, were participants. Mr. Becher, who declared that he was a miner and had looked at the mineral wealth of the country, undertook after the usual fashion, when Korea is concerned; to cast doubts on the suggestions of Mr. Campbell as to the richness of the mines.

This gentleman thought that there was no great mineral wealth in the country. I am told that he made a flying trip through the mineral regions of Korea in the interest of some foreign mining syndicate; he seems however to have based his opinions more upon theory than on intelligent and practical observation. He is reported as saying:

"Gold is undoubtedly widely distributed, especially in the North but the very fact of this distribution of gold is only a proof as Dr. Gottsche told us in analogous circumstances in China, *of the poverty of the country* * * * * This wide distribution and production must *not be taken* to indicate a real abundance of its occurrence."

Mr. Becher, being as he claims a miner, ought to have known that gold and other precious metals are "widely distributed" in America, and I think the Royal Society would give but little heed to his theories or vagaries, when gravely asserting that such fact was only "proof" of the "mineral poverty of that country."

Taking San Francisco as an initial point this "wide distribution" extends over the land in every direction for a thousand miles, and often much more, and yet there are some people who think, Mr. Becher's theories to the contrary notwithstanding, that there are some valuable and productive mines within this widely distributed precious metal-bearing territory, basing their ideas upon the statistical facts that nearly one hundred million dollars of precious metals are annually produced within that area.

Mr. Becher's failure to find mines is not inexplicable.

Nature has not put mines along thoroughfares, nor do they grow on trees near the inns in towns, and in a country like Corea where there is no machinery, no huge mills nor high smoke-stacks for furnaces, or hoisting works to attract attention, it is but natural to suppose that even an expert miner or skilled prospector could pass near a Korean mine, consisting of a small shaft or tunnel, in utter ignorance of its existence, and that in fact he could form no intelligent estimate of the value of the mines developed or of the resources of the country, without the assistance and hearty co-operation of the local miners.

But Mr. Becher innocently and no doubt unconsciously gives us the key to his failure when he says: "In my own case
"I had passports from the highest officials, which secured
"for me the *greatest comforts* in the principal towns and
"inns, but they were ignored by the privileged miners, who
"considered they had a prospective right to the gold of the
"districts in which they were engaged."

Now it must not be overlooked that this gentleman was traveling through the country under the auspices of a Foreign Syndicate, who proposed to take up and work mines. The Korean miners understanding this, and no doubt having in memory, the avidity and cupidity of the foreigner with respect to gold, as evidenced by the recent so-called *Oppert Expedition*, which was capitalized by an unscrupulous American speculator, led by a German adventurer, and piloted by a French renegade priest, who chartered a ship and with an armed force invaded the country for the sacrilegious purpose of robbing graves of gold that they supposed such tombs contained, could not be expected to rally around Mr. Becher with much enthusiasm; indeed: the zeal which under these circumstances they must have manifested in *not* giving him information as to the value of properties which they feared would be taken away from them without compensation and given over to a foreigner, no doubt

was only equalled by the care they took to conceal their mines and to suppress all information as to their value and the only wonder is that Mr. Becher did not understand this; that coming here and accomplishing nothing he should now give the customary "fling" at Corea's poverty is to be expected. It is difficult to overcome fashion, habit, disappointment and failure.

This visiting miner while admitting that he had not seen the coal mines declared that others say that it is not "of very extra quality," and he adds that "it is hardly likely that Korean coal can compete with that of China or Japan whose deposits are known to be vast and of excellent quality."

Having never examined Korean coal mines, I know nothing personally about them; but this I do know, that the mines are said by all who have seen them, to be extensive and easily worked, the coal measures being unusually thick and there being no mining obstacles.

As to the quality of the Ping Yang coal I can only say that I have used it for domestic purposes and find it excellent. A fair comparison with Japanese coal can be made when we take into consideration the fact that Ping Yang coal commands, and we pay, one dollar a ton more for it than for Japanese coal.

I may add to this that a Scotch steam engineer, the most intelligent man in his profession I have met in the East and who is employed in the Japanese Mercantile Steamships, told me that he had practically tested a sufficient quantity of coal which had been furnished him from a coal mine in Southern Corea (entirely unknown to foreigners) and that on such test he had found that it was the best coal to be obtained in Asia.

G.

To be continued.

THE BEGINNINGS OF SEOUL.

Look at the capital of Korea five hundred years ago. The early years of the founder of the present dynasty, (the Pathfinder of Ham Kyeng Do), his military genius and immense popularity with the army; his refusal to invade China after he reached the borders of that country; the revolt of the army and overthrow of the Whang dynasty; the banishment of the King to Kang Whoa;* the expulsion and degradation of the Buddhist priests, cannot be treated in the limits of this paper.

We therefore begin with Our Great-grandfather the Great Ruler† on the throne justly forfeited by the misrule and licentiousness of the last king of the previous dynasty. His first concern naturally was to find a place for his throne. The lack of a new capital however did not keep him from ascending the throne in the old capital at Song Do.‡ This important event happened in the year Im Sin§ on the seventh day of the seventh moon. While the question of the capital was still undecided, among the first things done by the new king was to send an Embassy to Nanking, China, asking imperial approval on his successful revolt and especially what name to give his kingdom—whether to call it the Land of Harmonious Peace || or the Land of Morning Brightness.¶ The answer came back “the old name is the better, take it,” and we have Chosön.

Moo Hak(°) the interpreter of the famous dream sn-

* 江華강화

† 我太祖大王아례조대왕

‡ 松都송도

§ 壬申임신

|| 和甯화녕

¶ 朝鮮조선

(a)° 無學무학

nouncing the brilliant career of the young man, was thought of by the new King and the three governors of the Kiung Kui, Hwoang Hai and Ping An provinces were sent to find him. Moo Hak was found on a high mountain and obeyed the royal summons for he seems to have been as skilled in geomancy as in interpreting dreams.

The year following, Kay Riong San * (described in the February number of the *Repository*) was chosen as the site for the capital and work begun on it. His Majesty, however, in one of his usual dreams saw a person coming to him and saying, "Kay Riong San is sacred to the Chung family; be pleased to select some other place," and with that departed without giving instructions where to go.

Moo Hak was directed to the favored town of Han Yang, the capital-elect but not occupied during the Ko Kou Rye † reign. Tradition says the village of Woang Sip Ri—three miles east of the city—was first selected, but Moo Hak came upon stone tablets in the ground with the inscription: *The good-for-nothing priest, Moo Hak, made a mistake in searching here.* ‡

Another tradition says the men while at work received the word from some unknown though authoritative source, "You have come ten *li* too far to build your city; go west."

For the second, possibly for the third time new ground was broken. The Seoul of to-day was begun in the twelfth moon of the third year of the reign of Tai Cho Tai Woang. The erection of the public buildings was intrusted to Chung Do Chun. The site of the present Palace remains unchanged. Work progressed so fast that in less than a year the Royal Tablet House together with the other buildings of the royal Palace were

* 계룡산

† 고구려

‡ 妖僧無學枉尋到此 요괴러온증무학이그릇차
자여괴니르다

finished and His Majesty moved into them from Song Do. Sacrifices were offered to the spirits and great rejoicing on the completion of the work indulged in. The city wall, the same then as it now is, is 9975 yards or nearly six miles long and 42 feet high. The northern provinces sent 119000 men, the southern 79000, and the whole wall was completed in the short space of nine months. Cho Chun* had charge of the work. Nine gates were built—the True North and the Little South gates having been closed His Majesty was so well pleased with the wall and so great was his concern for the people that for three years following its completion, he remitted the usual royal taxes.

Tai Cho Tai Woang built Chong No—the business center of the city. The big bell was made in his fourth year as king. It not only for five hundred years opened and closed the gates of the city, telling the people when to rise and when to retire, but its particular work is to sound the praises through all ages of the great founder of this Dynasty, to tell unto “ten thousand generations” how greatly heaven favored “our king” in his glorious work of saving the country from the wrongs of the previous reign. For this purpose the bell was made, the house built, and the “bell hung in the house” and for this let its sweet tones continue so that the memory of the great be not forgotten. The bell is supposed to be the third largest in the world. In view of the sacred memories that cluster around it and the noble work it has to perform, is it any wonder that the “enterprise” of the World’s Fair, as is generally reported, in its attempt to purchase and cart off this really great thing in the city, failed? Korean patriotism is not entirely gone and Seoul is to be congratulated on its *deafness*—the proposition was not even considered by those “approached”—to such “modern enterprise.”

The last days of Tai Cho Tai Woang were far from his best. He reigned seven years. He had two queens and eight sons. These, before the father's death began to aspire, intrigue and plot for the throne. At the early age of forty-seven, weary with the turmoil and excitement through which he had passed and not a little grieved at the bitter spirit among his sons, he gave the reins of government to his second son, the first one being dead. This man reigned two years when his brother the fifth son, took the government. Tai Cho Tai Woang lived eight years of the eighteen of this reign. He died at the age of fifty-seven and was buried at Yang Chou, thirty *li* (ten miles) to the east of the city he founded.

Of the personal appearance of this great man little is known. We are told he had a very quiet manner, sat much with closed eyes which fact impressed those around him with fear; when in conversation, however, his face lighted up so wonderfully that fear gave way to confidence and love. His nose was prominent, ears unusually large and his face like that of a *ryong* (dragon), so much so that when a Chinese ambassador saw him he declared he had never seen the like for beauty and intelligence.

He was born to be a king. This fact was revealed to him in a dream. He dreamed he was entering a country town when all the chancleers crowed; he had three sticks tied on his back; the blossoms fell from the trees, and the looking-glasses were broken. He was about to reveal his dream to an old woman, who declined to hear it, but sent him to Moo Hak. This modern Joseph interpreted the dream thus: The cry of the chancleers was Exalted and Precious†; the three sticks were the cross-pieces in the character for Ruler‡; the falling blossoms indicated the approach of harvest, and the broken glasses meant the shouts of the conquerors. The application was readily made and in the brilliant career that followed we may believe Tai Cho Tai Woang was not a little influenced by the interpretation of this dream.

龍
* 龍

† 높고 귀하다

‡ 王

H. G. APPENZELLER.

THE JAPANESE INVASION.

IV. THE ROYAL FLIGHT.

KONISHI met the forces sent from Sōul under General Yi Iri to oppose him, on the 26th of the fourth Moon 1592 at the city of Sang Chu.^{*} A great number of refugees had sought safety within the walls of this city and augmented by the "troops" from Sōul there were thousands within the walls to defend them. Konishi however routed them easily and inflicted terrible punishment upon the city when it fell into his hands. General Yi managed to escape and was compelled to flee to the North unaccompanied. By mountain paths and by roads he managed to reach the famous "Bird's Flight Pass,"[†] and among the defiles of the mighty Chorong[‡] he found the forces under General Shin Ip.

In the meantime the news of his defeat had reached Sōul, and an immediate exodus from the Capital began. As early as the 21st, one week after the fall of Fusan the Court had entertained the thought of flight, but had contented itself with simple preliminary preparations. On the 28th the determination was reached to go, and the second son of His Majesty, the Kwang Hai Prince Hui[§] was declared Crown Prince with the usual formal ceremonies, in order to insure a legal succession to the throne.

^{*} 尙州 상주

[†] The Chinese name of the Bird's Flight Pass.

[‡] 鳥嶺 요령 새재 [§] 光海主 광희주 This prince succeeded his father to the throne and after a reign of 14 years was dethroned because of his vile character, and is now dishonored in the designation 주 instead of the usual 대왕.

These measures for the royal flight however were not viewed with universal favor and provoked some remonstrance. The Minister President of the Board of Civil Affairs* openly alleged the demoralizing effect of the news of His Majesty's determination and pleaded for a bolder front. He even went so far as to advocate the employment of ten gentlemen of the scholar class,† who offered themselves to the Government for the purpose of assassinating the higher officers of the Japanese Army. To the credit of His Majesty the suggestion was promptly rejected.

Favorable as the defiles of the great Choriong were for a stand against the foe the Chosunese determined to abandon it and mass their troops at the city of Choung Chu.‡ Accordingly Shin Ip marched westerly, into the province of Choung Chung,§ and took up a position near the proposed city with the foe in front and a river at his rear. Konishi approached him in two columns, and by a flank movement caught him in a trap from which there was no possible escape but by the river. At the first onslaught the Chosunese were driven into this river which was soon covered with the floating bodies of dead natives. The slaughter among the Chosunese was frightful; the force was almost entirely annihilated, Shin Ip paying for his stupid generalship with his life.

All this time Kato was sweeping up the east coast like a besom of destruction. Everywhere the people were put to the sword. At the old city of Kyong Chu|| once the capital of the proud little Kingdom of Shilla¶ an attempt was made to oppose him; in punishment he not only put the people to the sword but ordered the city set on fire. From here he turned to the north-west, marching rapidly for the great Choriong, and marking his

* 吏曹判書니조 판서

† 士人 선비

‡ 忠州 충주

§ 忠清道 충청도

|| 慶州 경주

¶ 新羅 신라

way by smoking towns, and slaughtered thousands left unburied to be interred by kites, eagles, and carrion of every species. Reaching the town of Choung Chu on the northern slopes of the Choriong he there met Konishi, for the first time since he had so cleverly given him the slip. They went into council, but their jealousy and mutual distrust soon crept out. Kato demanded the exclusive honor of capturing Söul, to which Konishi would not consent. And so bitter did the altercation become that they were only prevented from coming to blows by the interference of their colleagues.* Their final agreement was that as there were two roads leading to Söul Kato should have the first choice of these. He selected the one approaching Söul from the south, which though rougher than the other and leading into the defenses of the Han River† was said to be shorter than the other, which approached Söul by the Yong Naru‡ fords and the East Gate. Here they parted, Konishi however taking the precaution of sending some of his men in disguise ahead of Kato to destroy the boats along the Han and thus delay him in crossing.

The news of the fall of Choung Chu reached Söul on the 29th and though the enemy was still one hundred miles away the royal flight to the north was settled and occurred the next night. The determination soon became known in the city and occasioned an uproar among the already depleted populace, and a further exodus was inaugurated; palace servants and clerks fled in dismay, and "the palace became as silent as a tomb;" soldiers on the city walls bribed their officers to let them desert, and it seemed as though Söul would be left without either inhabitant or defender.

The royal flight occurred at midnight of the 30th, in the midst of a storm which raged as though in league with the foe.

* 日本外史

† 漢江한강

‡ 龍津룡근로

The sight was a sad one; a handful of men guarding the Tablets supposed to contain the royal shades of Chosun; His Majesty with a few trusty men; the Crown Prince; and the Queen last surrounded by about twenty of her Court attendants and guided by two trusty nobles. On they plunged through the darkness and rain as though Konishi were already at their heels all that night and the next day, ignoring the pitiless storm and hardly pausing long enough to take food. The next night they crossed the Imchin River,* the swollen and rapid waters of which were lit up by the red rays of a huge fire on the bluffs above, the country about having been scoured for oil to feed its flames. This spot is now marked by a pavilion which in summer looks down upon an enchanting scene.

Early on the 2nd. of the fifth Moon they entered the old city of Songdo †, Capital of the former Kingdom of Korai ‡. Pausing here two days, the flight was continued in a more orderly manner until the town of Keum Kyo Yök § was reached, where hearing news of the fall of Söul the flight was quickened into a dead run for the city of Pyöng Yang. The King reached Pyöng Yang on the 8th. of the fifth Moon, and was met some distance out by the Governor of the province who came out to meet him with 3000 troops to escort him with honor into the ancient city. Here he established himself for a time, hoping he would have to go no further, but determined to push on if necessary across the Yaloo || into China and to throw himself on the mercy of Peking.

Glad to bid farewell to his bitterly hated but fortune-favored rival, Kato abated for a time the destructiveness of his march and pushed on with all possible speed determined to make sure of the Söul. But Konishi's men had done their

* 臨津림진
† 松都송도

‡ 高麗고려
§ 金郊驛금교역

|| 鴨綠江압록강

work well, and the absence of boats resulted in a delay his temper could ill brook at that time. It was remedied after a time and crossing, a camp of Koreans which, in spite of the desertion of their commander Kim Myōng Wun* had awaited his coming were soon routed. He pushed on to the Great South Gate,—only to find it wide open with Konishi's ensign floating from the top and Konishi's men awaiting to welcome him. "The boy" had once more borne off the prize; Sōul had fallen into Konishi's hands on the day before, the 3d. of the fifth Moon, 1592.

The Japanese march on Sōul was almost unopposed. The two chiefs left in charge of the walls Kim Myōng Wun, who after he had proven himself a craven at the Han had been thus honored by the King, and Yi Yang Wun† fled almost as soon as the royal party in its flight had left the West Gate. The great city proved the easiest as well as the greatest prize Konishi took during the war. For ten days the Japanese straggled into Sōul and here the Commander in Chief, Hideyei took up his headquarters in the Ancestral Tablet Temple‡ of the royal family. The royal palace and many of the larger edifices of the city were destroyed. Troops were garrisoned in several of the public buildings and many were quartered upon the people. A provisional Government was set up, and as many of the people as so wished were permitted to return to their homes inside the walls; all ingress to and egress from the city was by written passes from the Japanese headquarters. All criminals and transgressors were burned to death in front of the "Great Bell"§ and great numbers of the Chosunese met this fate. This however did not prevent many from returning to their homes inside the walls where they were able to engage in lucrative trade with the

* 金命元 김명원
† 李陽元 니양원

‡ 宗廟종묘
§ 鐘路종로

Japanese, and were soon on friendly terms with them. Hideie remained but a short time in the magnificent parks and buildings of the Ancestral Temple; for some reason he suddenly changed to the Nam Pyöl Kung,* the palace which had entertained the Japanese Envoys and still remains for the use of Ambassadors Extraordinary, when such appear. The ancestral temples were set on fire and soon, to the sorrow of the Chosunese their Chong Mio was a heap of ashes.

GEO. HEBER JONES.

*南別宮 남별궁

A BUDDHIST FANATIC.

THE founder of the *Ko-rye* * dynasty had a narrow escape from the fanaticism and tyranny of a Buddhist devotee.

A son was born to *Hen-an* †, the King of Sinla, on the fifth day of the fifth Moon. His birth occurring on this day was considered an omen of some impending calamity to his father, and the babe was therefore cast out of the window from the upper story of the palace. His wet-nurse passing by caught him in her hands as he fell, accidentally putting out one of his eyes. Being deprived of his rights as a son of the King he entered a monastery as soon as he arrived at the proper age. He wrote "inspired" books and "wrought miracles," and his name, *Syen-chong* ‡, became a household word. The kingdoms of *Ko-kou-rye* and *Paik-chye* had both fallen and *Sin-la* § was decrepid. Chiefs and leaders arose in various parts of the peninsula fighting the remnants of the fallen or decaying governments and courts, as well as each other. Anarchy prevailed throughout the land.

Syen-chong visited *Yang Kil* || one of the most powerful of these leaders and made a favorable impression. Both his well-known ability as a scholar and his relation to the king of *Sin-la* were taken into consideration, and he was soon entrusted with important missions. He was successful beyond his chief's most sanguine expectations and much territory was added to the nascent kingdom. When *Yang Kil* died *Syen-chong* be-

* 高麗 고려 ‡ 宣宗 선종 || 梁吉 량길
 † 憲安王 헌안왕 § 新羅 신라

came his successor in authority and established a kingdom with the high-sounding name *Ma-chin** (Touching Thunder?), a name taken from early Buddhist fable. He located his capital at *Kai-syeng*†, the present Song-do. Seven years later he removed the capital to *Htyel-ouen*‡ and again seven years later he re-named his kingdom *Htai-pong*§.

His success, it is charitable to believe, unbalanced his reason and he gradually became as notorious for his excesses and dissipation as he had long been for his marvelous ability as a leader. He accused his wife of the same crime to which he himself had become addicted, and when she resented he put her to death with his own hands. His two sons whom he had called *bodhisattvas* also became victims of his refined cruelties. An iron rod heated to a white heat and plunged in the vitals of those who rebuked or opposed him seemed to be the only remedy his fiendish passion knew. His ministers were alienated and the people terrified. He finally claimed to have become an embodiment of *Maitreya* and to have obtained the *Mirror of the Heart*, or power of ecstatic contemplation and the ability to read the thoughts in men's hearts. He summoned his most faithful minister *Oang-keun*|| and looking at him fiercely asked him why he had assembled the nobles the previous night and plotted rebellion. *Oang-keun* calmly asked where anything of the kind had taken place. The king said: "Do not try to deceive me. I will go into ecstatic contemplation and then tell your thoughts and plans." Hereupon he closed his eyes and appeared to be unconscious. While thus engaged his private secretary dropped his pencil which rolled towards the accused. In picking it up he whispered to the latter: "Confess, and you'll live." Hereupon the minister said: "I have

*摩震 마진

†開城 개성

‡鐵原 철원

§泰封 태봉

||王建 왕건

indeed been harboring thoughts of rebellion and deserve to die a thousand deaths." The king smiled pleasantly and said: "You're a sincere man!" He then rewarded him with a gold and silver-mounted saddle and urged him to continue faithful. Not long after, the people surrounded the palace and demanded that *Oang-keun* should take the reins of government. *Syen-chong*, then better known as *Koung-yei**, made his escape through a back door, and disguising himself as a peasant, fled to *Hpyengkang*† where he was put to death by the villagers. *Oang-keun* then founded Ko-rye, A. D. 917.

*弓裔궁예

†平康평강

EXTRACTS FROM THE DAILY GAZETTE.

MAY 12th. The Superintendent of the Palace Hospital brought the ginseng soup to His Majesty.

May 17th. The Head of the Royal Prison informs His Majesty that the criminal Kim Yak Chei has been sent to the island of Ko Keum.

May 18th. His Majesty orders Rei-pang-seun-chin to examine the Ancestral Halls Chong Myo, Yeung Nyeng Tjyen, Sya Chik, and Kyeng Mo Koung.

May 22nd. His Majesty appointed His Ex. Shim Prime Minister.

The Crown Prince will be present when His Majesty worships at the tomb of the late Queen Dowager on the 1st. and 16th, of the 6th. Moon.

May 23rd. The Prime Minister, His Ex. Shim, declares that he cannot attend to the duties of his office because of old age and defective memory.

May 24th. His Ex. the Prime Minister wants to resign.

NOTES, QUERIES &c.

IN the Eastern Ocean there are two kingdoms, named Chyo-sèn and Tjyèn-tok.* The people live on the water and are affectionate.

Chyo-sèn is now the Naknân district†; Tjyèn-tok is the kingdom of Tjyèn-tok whose people esteem truth‡, virtue, and letters. Gold, silver, treasure, and pagodas (Buddhism) came from that kingdom. The emperor Tai Hüng of the Chin dynasty (A. D. 318) in the fourth year of his reign received a present from the king of Tjyèn-tok.

[K'wak Pak§ in the *Mountain and Ocean Classic*, A. D. 276-324.]

That the ocean is here reverted to after its extensive treatment in the preceding chapters is because of omissions discovered afterwards. The former name of Chyosen was Korye. Tjën-tok has another meaning. Tjën-ch'uk|| is in the West. Therefore Tjyèn-tok is not the kingdom to which Han Myeng Tjye sent the ministers who returned with a bone of Buddha.

[Comments of Wang Sung Kyeng, a writer of the Ming Dynasty.]

Tien-tu* on the other hand, was the name of a place in the Eastern Sea mentioned in the Shang-hai-ching along with Chao-hsien or Korea. This place was identified wrongly with the Tien-chu of Buddhist writers. But there was also a Tien-tu, a small country to the west of China, which has been supposed to be the Shen-tu of Chang-chien.

[T. Watters, *China Review*, Vol. XIX, p. 210.]

*天篤 †樂浪 ‡道 §郭璞 ||天竺

EDITOR KOREAN REPOSITORY.

DEAR SIR:—In your March number "A Student" asks for "the standard for spelling in Korea." A standard is defined as "that which is established as a rule or model by respectable authority, by custom or general consent. It must be confessed the standard here is not all one could desire, but it certainly never occurred to me that "the general consensus among students of Korean" is "that every man is a law unto himself." The tyro may be pardoned for getting that impression but any one claiming to be a "student" should not be caught napping that way. He should see that all questions relating to orthography are settled, and settled finally at least as far as the Korean is concerned by an appeal to the *Ok Pyen** and to the translations of the Classics.

It is not claimed that these standards agree in their spelling any more than Webster and Wooster agree, but it is claimed that they are recognized standards among some scholars—Koreans I mean.

As to the orthography and pronunciation of Seoul the standard is as given by you (*see e. g. The Small Learning Vol. V. p. 59.*) As to the pronunciation of the word I tried your "so-called Continental vowel sounds on some of my students; they smiled very good-naturedly and said it was the pronunciation of those who spoke the dialects. I have yet to hear the Korean call the word *Sau-ul* though I frankly admit I hear foreigners pronouncing it that way almost daily. I fail to see the reason for giving those on the "continent" one kind of advice and "to those more accustomed to the English" another and a different kind. Why teach two pronunciations, when the Koreans use but one?

The transliteration Syoul as given in the "Dictionnaire Coreén Francais" is probably nearer correct than Seoul.

H. G. A.

THE word Seoul means *Capital* to the Koreans and is used as the *name* of the capital of Korea by foreigners. It is, as all admit, a word of two syllables, commonly transliterated *Sye-oul*†. Unfortunately this does not help those who do not study the language to anything like a correct pronunciation because it does not spell it phonetically any more than *Séoul*, *Sööl*, *Soul* &c. Any attempt however to pronounce it as a monosyllable must necessarily lead astray and is as unintelligible to the uninitiated Korean as *Njork* would be to the mass of the people in New York.

The history of the word is supposed to be as follows: The name of the king-

* 玉篇 옥편

† 徐苑 서울

dom of *Sin-la* changed five times before the name *Sin-la* was adopted. Its first name was *Sye-ra-pel**, its second *Sye-ya-pel*†, its third *Sa-ra*‡, its fourth *Sa-ro*§, and its fifth *Kyei-rim*||. In the change from the trisyllables to dissyllables we have the first indication of a tendency to "round off" the name. The name of the kingdom was applied to the government and then to the seat of the government. The populace said *Syeoul* while orthography, tardy as usual, clung to the cumbersome trisyllables with their harsh *r* and *p* (*b*) wedged in between vowels for a while longer.

We can appreciate this bit of conservatism when we bear in mind that the only writing then used in the peninsula was the Chinese ideogram and it is probable that the word was not written as it had long been spoken until the general adoption of the Korean alphabet, with its phonetic spelling. The two Chinese characters were adopted to represent this Korean word.

The site of the city is called Han Yang¶, or Sunny Side of the Han (river) but the city also bears the name of the capital of the Han and Sui dynasties—*Chyang-an* (a)* (Richthofen, *Tshang-ngan*) and like Pekin is not infrequently spoken of as *Nak-yang* (a)† the capital of the East Chen, East Han, Tsin, and Tang dynasties. *Chyang-an* was also applied to *Song-do*, the capital of Ko-rye, but not to the capitals of the older kingdoms.

We still recommend to non-students of the language who would "not follow the multitude to do evil" but desire to pronounce the word as Koreans pronounce it, the use of those letters in "phoneticising" it, with which they are most familiar. Each one loves his own mother best.

H. G. A. shows the spirit of the true student in putting our impromptu suggestions to the test and we are more than satisfied with the result. It ought not to be hard to convince any one that the pronunciation of the word as a monosyllable is *not* like that of the Koreans "who speak the dialects" nor, for that matter, like that of any Koreans. That they do not smile when they hear foreigners talk of going to *whisky* (Sool) liking *whisky*, or *living in whisky* simply illustrates the force of habit.

It should have been stated earlier in the discussion that foreigners usually fail on the vowel of the first syllable. The *o* as in *long*, or *aw* in *law* (Williams) and written *ó* by Bridgman, Maclay and Baldwin would probably come nearest the native sound, but there is always the danger of these top-knots being discarded after a brief season's handling by the busy public, in which case we should have *Soul* left, than which nothing could be farther from the correct pronunciation. We have

° 徐羅伐셔라벌
† 徐耶伐셔야벌
‡ 斯羅스라

§ 斯盧스로
|| 雞林계림
¶ 漢陽한양

(a)° 長安장안
(a)† 洛陽락양

seen the name of our city written in this way by advocates of the ö (Söul) having "forgotten the umlaut" and we fear Söul would fare no better. We are therefore inclined to think it just as well to continue to write Seoul, though *Söul* is nearer the native pronunciation.

Editor of the Korean Repository.

DEAR SIR:—

It will doubtless be an occasion of gratitude to many of us that our place of residence, after circulating around under as many aliases as a New York confidence man, seems almost within the hands of the men who are anxious to fasten one good, straight cognomen on it.

"Student" is right to a certain extent in saying that "every Korean is a law to himself" in spelling Korean; this will be apparent upon reference to either the native literature, in which it is impossible to find two works uniform in their orthography, or to the letter-writing of the times. "Student" however errs in concluding from this that there is no standard. An attempt has been made at the creation of a standard in the *Ok Pyön*—I beg pardon th. **옥편**. This is a native work, being a dictionary of Chinese characters, their pronunciation being written in Korean and is well adapted to serve as a standard. I say "adapted to serve as a standard," for it is doubtful that it was ever intended as a final standard on more than the pronunciation.

Being limited, however, to the Chinese character, it is absolutely useless in that large field of grammatical endings and pure native words of which **서울** is a good example. While it is chargeable that the native, with the possible exception of those who have been taught better by foreigners, writes **언문** with kaleidoscopic variations that are as curious as they are perplexing, it is doubtful that he can produce anything more bewildering than Seoul, Söul, Söwl, Sowl, Sool, Sole, Sau-ull, and Saw-ool. **서울** is a pure native production and one of the very few existing relics of the ancient kingdom of Silla. The Sillian word was **서야불**. Eighteen hundred and odd years of use by the Koreans, and five years use by foreigners have so crippled this inoffensive word however, that it has been able to save only one of its original syllables in the general fracas, and for the remainder it has had to accept a complete modification, and so we have **서울**.

To romanize this two systems (more or less) are proposed—Sye-oul and Syö-ul. By common consent the *y* in the first syllable has been discarded and we have Se-oul and Sö-ul. As for the first, the *e* is about as misleading as anything yet perpetrated on the unsuspecting public, as any one will con-

fess who has heard our unposted friends at home struggling with the mysteries of Seoul and evolving either See-ool or Say-ol. Therefore let the good work go on, put the *e* under a glass case with the equally useless *y* and send it to the Smithsonian as a Korean curio, and leave us Soul. This is a word of one syllable; we want two, and yet don't, for the two syllables flow into each other so well that they become *almost* a monosyllable in conversation. Make an *umlaut* out of the *o* and we have Söul, not a perfect medium it is true, but an intelligible and practical rendition, and one which will at least leave the public in the neighborhood of the correct pronunciation; not even its worst enemies would be so unkind as to say this of Seoul.

GEO. HEBER JONES.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. CHURCH returned from Pyeng Yang on the 19th. inst. having made the trip (550 *li*) in a little over three days on a bicycle. He reports that the Mint at Pyeng Yang was destroyed by fire on the 13th. The coal-pit is also said to be on fire.

MR. JONES reached Söul May 12th. from a ten weeks' trip in the north. He covered a round thousand miles on horseback, the route being via Pyeng Yang to Wechu and thence across to Wönsan. He saw several of the rioting districts and reports that on one day he had news of nine Magistracies having ejected their officials.

REV. A. S. MOFFETT and Dr. Brown left early in the month for the northern regions of the peninsula and expect to be away the greater part of the summer.

METEOROLOGICAL Return from Yuensan for the month of April.

First part of month fresh, West and N. W. winds prevailed; latter part moderate East and N. E. winds with heavy fog banks to eastward; 7 days rain, 3 days fog. Total rainfall 1.1 inches.

Highest Temp. 68.8 Fahr.

Lowest Temp. 30.2 Fahr.

It seems from a proclamation posted extensively throughout the city that a certain class of natives have been only too successful in gaining the confidence of foreign (we suppose chiefly Chinese and Japanese) merchants. Both money and goods have been entrusted to them without requiring sufficient security and much litigation has resulted. The government threatens them with exile to some distant island if they are again caught plying their sharp game.

MR. GUERIN of the Commissariat de la Republique Française en Corée has been transferred to Tientsin. Mr. Lefevre, chancelier of the Tientsin consulate and now at home on leave of absence has been appointed to Seoul, Mr. Beauvais meanwhile takes Mr. Lefevre's place.

KOREA, OR COREA—WHICH?

THE name of the last kingdom opened to Western intercourse is written *Corea* in all the treaties except in the German text of the treaty with Germany in which it is always and quite naturally spelled with a K. (See Treaties, Regulations, etc. between Corea and other Powers, I. M Customs Shanghai, 1891.) In the American and English treaties of 1882 the correct name of the country,—the name by which alone it has been called by its own people these 500 years,—*Chosén*, is used in the text.

The characters 高麗 do not appear in the Chinese text. We believe it is a mistaken conservatism that insists on applying the name of a defunct dynasty to a living and "High Contracting Power." At the same time it is better to await the pleasure of the majority of treaty-makers in this respect and we therefore publish the *Korean*, not the *Chosen* Repository. However, if they will insist on using an ancient name let them give us the spelling used by the people.

We are sure of the first letter of the word Ko-rye as spelled by the natives and none of the several grammarians have hesitated to represent it by our English *k*. The only approach to *c* (and that the Italian *c*) is the consonant ㄷ, the equivalent of which is usually *ch* as in *church*. The U. S. State Department and the Royal Geographical Society have therefore very consistently begun to spell the name of our adopted land *Korea*.

A very handsome Portfolio of the World's Columbian Exposition to be opened in Chicago, May 1st. 1893, has been placed in the Union Reading Room. This with a large wall plan in colors gives one a very good idea of the extent and magnificence of the buildings to be erected by the Exposition authorities and the U.S. Government, but does not include the many projected buildings now being put up by Foreign governments.

It is pretty safe even for an American to say that this exposition will eclipse anything of the kind yet held.

THE U. S. S. *Marion* arrived at Chemulpo on the 25th. for a short stay. Captain Bartlett, attended by Lieut. of Marines C. M. Perkins, and Surgeon F. B. Stephenson, came to Seoul on the 27th. returning to the Port on the 29th. It is understood that the *Marion's* Battalion will be landed on Rôze Island for drill and practice with small arms.

THE Diplomatic Body has decided to adopt the Pekin rule of etiquette and wait for new-comers, both ladies and gentlemen, to make the first call.

MR. R. B. LOCKWOOD who has been traveling in the East the past four years spent a week in Seoul at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bunker. Mr. Lockwood gave two instructive lectures on Missions in Turkey, Syria, India, and China, while in our midst.

AT about half past twelve this morning the bell of the Japanese Consulate sounded the alarm of fire. The fire originated in a rice-hulling shed, the property of a Japanese merchant, Mr. Hyashi. Occurring as it did at low water, the private wells of the settlement had to be attacked. This unfavorable circumstance together with the inefficient means employed in extinguishing fires, caused matters for a time at least, to assume a somewhat serious aspect. The Japanese Fire-Brigades however proved themselves equal to the task. Two Japanese fire-engines, of rather primitive construction, were promptly on hand, one of which, belonging to the superintendents' yamen, was worked entirely by Koreans, who, it must be admitted, did their part well. The Fire-Brigade of the Chinese gun-boat *Chin Hai* was also on hand with a force-pump which rendered good assistance. The fire was extinguished at about half past three, due, we are bound to say, to the perseverance and courage of the Japanese, some of whom were even ready to brave the flames. Five buildings were completely destroyed. The godowns surrounding these were remarkably preserved from the heat of the flames, being constructed on a so-called Japanese fire-proof system.

Chemulpo May, 31st.

J. H. Mörsel.

DR. MCGILL left Seoul on the 19th. of April for the Kang-Ouen province, carrying with him a supply of drugs. He enjoyed the rare privilege of visiting seven of the eight remarkable magistracies of that province, situated on the eastern coast of the peninsula and south of Wonsan, for which he is indeed to be envied. He spent one Sunday in Kim-Syeng where he had as a patient a notable tiger-hunter who had lost a number of fingers from each hand by overcharging his fise gun. He had killed twelve tigers. On one occasion he had encountered three, two of which he killed. For one which he killed last year he received from the magistrate the paltry sum of 5000 cash!

He describes Wonsan, (about 550 *li* northeast of Seoul) as situated on a beautiful bay having a fine beach, and abounding in fish, ducks, and swan.

Through the stupidity of his groom he failed to see An-pyen, the first of the "eight magistracies" south of Wónsan. It is situated about 30 *li* from the coast.

Hyep-kok he tells us is of little or no importance. It is approached by a long sand-bar between the ocean and the inland sea, hence its name. Htong-tchyen is also inland, but about 30 *li* distant there is a fine bay formed by a promontory of sexangular columns of rock, similar in appearance to Giant's Causeway on the northern coast of Ireland. Some of these have fallen out, thus isolating several which appear like huge chimneys rising from the sea, some of them forty and some fifty feet high.

The Keum-kang range is rugged and picturesque. From one point the doctor counted eight immense boulders, balanced as it were, on the peaks of the mountains. Here he also visited several monasteries, one of which was of considerable size, having one hundred and fifty priests.

Kang-neung is situated ten *li* from the sea-board and has a population of perhaps 3000.

The chief means of subsistence in many of the towns seems to be the gathering of sea-weed and evaporating sea-water.

The Pong-san Pass he found rather difficult of ascent, requiring much time and more energy. Fifty *li* from the summit, on the western slope of the mountain there is a large temple having in it sixty priests, and in its vicinity there is a fine grove of pines, some of which are three and others four feet in diameter.

The distance from Wónsan to Kang-neung is 550 *li*, and from that place to Seoul 550 *li*. Adding 100 *li*, the distance to the temples which he visited off the main road, Dr. McGill traveled 1750 *li*, or 538 miles.

ONE of the oldest and most influential members of the U. S. Senate is William M. Stewart of Nevada having entered nearly thirty years ago and now serving his third term. He is known as the great advocate for silver. His wife, and daughter Miss Maybelle Stewart, are visiting our city, the guests of General Greathouse, H. M.'s. Legal Adviser. Mrs. Stewart is the daughter of the famous Senator H. S. Foote who once beat Jefferson Davis in a campaign for the governorship of Mississippi. Senator Stewart and General Greathouse were at one time law partners. Their visit is much appreciated as the privilege of entertaining old friends in this part of the world is a rare one.

Mrs. and Miss Stewart left San Francisco last fall and have reached our